



# Medics Forward

*"Any mission, Anywhere"*

Volume 1, Issue 1

Heidelberg, Germany

July 1, 2003



## OIF provides real-world shakedown for MEDPROS



3rd Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Welton, provides security for the dental support mission during Task Force Neighborhood.

SEE FORWARD DENTAL TREATMENT TEAMS, PAGE 6

"We're helping to rebuild Iraq, where the dictator built palaces for himself, instead of hospitals and schools. And we will stand with the new leaders of Iraq as they establish a government of, by, and for the Iraqi people. The transition from dictatorship to democracy will take time, but it is worth every effort. Our coalition will stay until our work is done. Then we will leave, and we will leave behind a free Iraq."

— President Bush  
Aboard the  
USS Abraham Lincoln  
May 2, 2003

**Heidelberg, Germany** – Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) created the first, "real-world" opportunity for USAREUR and 7<sup>th</sup> Army commanders to look closely at the medical status of their most important assets – soldiers. The Medical Protection System, MEDPROS, enabled commanders and

leaders to access as many as 20 different immunizations, and 17 different medical data fields. The system automatically codes soldiers "Green", "Amber", or "Red", which equates to the individual's readiness and deployability. Commanders then coordinate with their supporting medical treatment facility in order to clear deficiencies to make the soldier "Green".

Beginning in the fall of 2002 USAREUR/7A screeners accessed more than 56,000 records and entered over 500,000 immunizations to ensure the highest state of readiness for deploying soldiers. The project trans-

formed the way the Army does business making it the example for the rest of the Army to follow. Worldwide access has further secured MEDPROS' position as the Army's single-source database for immunization history and specific medical history for each soldier.

Electronic pre-deployment and post-deployment health assessment forms have recently been added to the growing database. USAREUR/7A is the first Army theater to fully implement MEDPROS.

By Delois Klemm  
MEDPROS Management Analyst, ERMIC

## Medical team cares for Free Iraqi Forces

**Taszar, Hungary** – Three weeks – start-to-finish – that's all the time they had, but they still assembled a world class medical treatment facility with emergency surgical capability in Taszar, Hungary to provide medical care to members of the Free Iraqi Forces (FIF) training in Hungary.

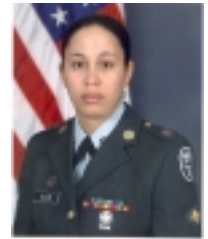
Deployed to Taszar for

various lengths of time, this medical task force pulled together a joint-service effort involving over 75 medical personnel from the 67<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany and the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina; physicians and personnel from U.S. Air Forces in Europe; medics from Ft.

Bragg, North Carolina; dental personnel from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hawaii; an air ambulance unit from Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany; and supply and logistics personnel from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe.

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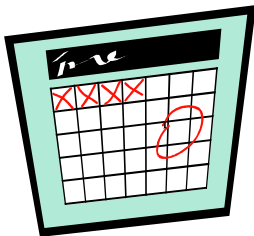
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### OEF/OIF stats:

- OIF patients 2,808 (24 June)
- OEF patients 1,614 (24 June)
- MEDPROS 56,000+ records 500,000+ immunizations
- USAMMCE 146,510+ line items 297+ DoD customers \$107.6+million



### Don't forget...

- 18 Jul  
LARMC Change of CMD
- 25 Jul  
USAREUR Soldier and NCO of the Year luncheon
- 1 Aug  
CHPPM-E Change of CMD
- 7-12 Sep  
"Haus Rissen" Seminar for Company-grade Officers & equivalent civilians
- 9-11 Sep  
[Land Combat Expo](#)



### LAND COMBAT EXPO 2003

"The Premier Leadership Development Opportunity for Every Member of the USAREUR Team"

9-11 September

Village Pavilion  
Heidelberg, Germany

[www.expo.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.expo.hqusareur.army.mil)

## ERMC's Ellis takes MEDCOM Soldier of the Year Award



Spc. Angelina Ellis  
2003 MEDCOM  
Soldier of the Year

**Heidelberg, Germany** — Spc. Angelina Ellis is the 2003 Medical Command (MEDCOM) Soldier of the Year. Ellis is an allergy and immunization technician at U.S. Army Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC), Heidelberg.

She was selected during a competition held May 29-June 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The competition started out with an Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by a 100-question written test. "The PT test was challenging because I am not used to such extreme heat," said Ellis.

On the evening of the first night, the night land navigation course was conducted. On the second day, the candidates completed the day land navigational course and were tested on eight common tasks testing (CTT). "The CTT was basic soldier things and a lot of fun. Land navigation was especially challenging for me because we were out at Camp Bullis [near Fort Sam Houston, Texas] and I was not familiar with the terrain," said Ellis.

The competition ended with an oral board comprised of over 30 different military subject areas conducted by senior non-commissioned officers of MEDCOM. "I went into this board determined to do my best. The questions were very straight forward and I was confident in my ability to perform well," said Ellis.

Competition actually began last year when local units selected their best soldiers and NCOs. Local winners competed in each of six regional medical commands. The regional winners then joined representatives from the Army Medical Department Center and School and Medical Research and Material Command for the finals at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"Determination is the key to any soldier's success. I am just a regular Army soldier who likes to do her job," said Ellis. "I want to thank my fam-

ily especially my husband for their support and faith in me. I also want to thank the people at Heidelberg MEDDAC for their support as well as the NCOs from the Wuerzburg MEDDAC. Everyone was very helpful and supportive."

Ellis is a native of Puerto Rico who enlisted in the Army in 2000. She participates in Heidelberg MEDDAC's color guard and family readiness group. One of her goals is to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing and become a commissioned officer in the Army Nurse Corp.

Ellis will compete against other major command winners for the Army-wide Soldier of the Year honors later this year.

By Tracy Bailey  
H-MEDDAC Public Affairs



Spc. Angelina Ellis, an allergy and immunization technician at US Army Medical Department Activity, Heidelberg gives an immunization to Da-kota Pratt.

## Medical Center “grows facilities” to support OIF

**Landstuhl, Germany** — The largest military medical facility in Europe needed to grow and it needed to grow now! Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center (LARMC) would have to expand to meet the needs of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It needed to expand by 150 beds and more than double the number of patients its combined, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) could handle.

The joint-service effort required training and integrating more than 600 augmentees to assemble and set up the

150-bed expansion to sustain the needs of the additional patient load. The expansion, completed in minimum time, assured that LARMC was able to provide space for more than 300 patients and is a model for future joint U.S. forces medical operations.

Simultaneously, LARMC's combined ICU, which normally cares for an average of six patients daily, had to expand into a multiple critical care service facility with 28 beds. The result that sprang from this wartime necessity is a

unit that is able to receive and care for the entire spectrum of trauma, and Disease Non-Battle Injury patients.

As of June 24, 2003, LARMC had cared for 2,808 patients from Operation Iraqi Freedom and 1,614 patients from Operation Enduring Freedom.

By Capt. Alan A. Jones  
LARMC Adjutant

## LARMC



**“The largest  
military medical  
facility in Europe  
needed to grow  
and  
it needed to grow  
now!”**

## Wiesbaden head nurse lauded for cultural activism

**Wiesbaden, Germany** — When Capt. Hengmo McCall found out she was nominated for the Federal Asian/Pacific American Council's (FAPAC) Meritorious Service Military Award, she was surprised she could be rewarded for doing what she loved to do: volunteer. McCall, the head nurse at the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic, said that volunteering is a major part in her life, especially with activities that involve educating people

about a variety of cultures. “There are a lot of stereotypes out there because people just don't understand,” McCall said.

Korean-born, McCall migrated to the U.S. with her family when she was 17. She's been a member of Women's, Hispanic, Asian, and Black American Month committees.

By Sgt. Phillip E. Breedlove Jr.  
LARMC Public Affairs



Capt. Hengmo McCall is congratulated by David S.C. Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. FAPAC president, Alexander Chan, left, presented the award May 14 in Arlington, VA. DoD photo by Rudi Williams

## 212th MASH returns

**Miesau, Germany** — If soldiers go to war with quiet resolve, coming home from war can turn even the most circumspect into someone who could make a pretty nice living creating those mushy greeting cards.

Holding his daughter Dominique, 5, Staff Sgt. Alex Hunt ticked off all the things he thought about sitting in the Iraqi desert with his unit, the Miesau-based 212th Mobile

Army Surgical Hospital. The first couple of months, Hunt said, there was no time for anything but his job.

“But after a couple of months, you had time to think,” he said. “Time to think about holding your kids. Playing with your kids.

“About having a chance to hold your wife and to tell her how much you really love her. “You

take that for granted.”

Except for a five-soldier “trail party” to load equipment, the final 50 soldiers of the 170-strong MASH unit - the Army's last MASH unit - returned Tuesday from the front lines without suffering any losses itself.

They treated 734 people - soldiers, Iraqi prisoners of war and civilians.

SEE 212TH, PAGE 4



Andrew Lankford, 5, got a big boost when his father, Capt. Sean Lankford, returned home June 10th with the last element of the 212th MASH.

S&S photo by  
Terry Boyd



## H-MEDDAC



Maj. John Spain, Chief, Pharmacy Services, USA MED-DAC Heidelberg; Brig. Gen. Elder Granger; Commander ERMIC; Lt. Col. Earl Teeter, Commander, 411th BSB; Col. Karen A. Seipp, Commander USA MED-DAC Heidelberg

**"... The MASH unit raced north during a 78-hour convoy from Kuwait following and sometimes racing past the Fort Stewart, Georgia based 3rd Infantry Division ..."**



Heidelberg MEDDAC 2005 Ground-breaking scheduled for October 2003

## Heidelberg MEDDAC satellite pharmacy opens

**Heidelberg, Germany** – The Heidelberg MEDDAC satellite pharmacy officially opened on Mar. 28. The satellite pharmacy project has been in progress since July 2002 and is a welcome addition to the Heidelberg military community.

The Heidelberg MEDDAC satellite pharmacy is for all patients who are eligible for military medical services at the Heidelberg MEDDAC, to include active duty, retirees, DoD civilians and their family members. "The Heidelberg

satellite pharmacy is geared towards prescription refills, however if you have a new prescription and want to pick it up at the satellite pharmacy, we would be happy to help you," stated Maj. John Spain, Chief of Pharmacy at USA MEDDAC, Heidelberg.

Currently, the MEDDAC pharmacy refills between 75-100 prescriptions a day. That is almost 2000 prescriptions a month. "By building the satellite pharmacy on the Heidelberg Shopping Center

Kaserne, our patients can have their prescriptions refilled while they are taking care of other business," said Maj. Spain.

The Heidelberg satellite pharmacy is open Tuesday-Friday from 1000-1730; Saturday 1000-1600; closed for lunch from 1300-1400. The satellite pharmacy is open on all training and German holidays; closed on all federal holidays.

By Tracy Bailey  
H-MEDDAC Public Affairs

## 212th MASH returns

### 212TH, FROM PAGE 3

Four months in the middle of Operation Iraqi Freedom was a wild ride, according to all accounts.

The MASH unit raced north during a 78-hour convoy from Kuwait following – and sometimes racing past – the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based 3rd Infantry Division; V Corps elements from Heidelberg, Germany; and elements of the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky.

"They were the first Army hospital to establish operations in Baghdad," said Maj. Troy Mosely, 212th MASH executive officer. At one point, the unit set up operations 40 miles from Baghdad in the worst dust storm in the last 30 years, Mosely said.

Rear detachment soldiers worked to keep families in touch with soldiers at war, and to make sure soldiers in the field had nothing to worry about back home, said Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Marshall.

"It's the lack of knowing actu-

ally drives families wild," Marshall said.

So soldiers back home set up satellite phone calls during a family readiness group so people could hear the truth "instead of feeding on the nuclear power of rumors," said Capt. Gary Murvin, rear detachment commander.

After the war started March 19, communication ended.

"People were sitting on pins and needles. Then, little by little, e-mails started popping up," Murvin said.

Now, it is over and they are all safe.

A family jumping with joy surrounded Alex Hunt. Son A.J., 11, beamed when he told his father about making the A honor roll. Dominique was laughing because her daddy had lipstick on his cheek.

"I'm happy, happy, happy!" wife Sandra said, dancing in place. "He's a sight for sore eyes!"

The reunion was everything she dreamed it would be, Sandra

Hunt said. "Last night I was nervous," she said. "They told us they were coming home, then they called and said they weren't. It was an emotional roller coaster."

While one of his guys had a cold Corona beer waiting for him after he cleared, Capt. Sean Lankford, medical services officer, had an even better treat waiting in the family car – a Whopper with cheese.

"It was his idea," said his wife, Erin, gesturing to an ecstatic Andrew Lankford, 5.

As Sean Lankford hugged and hugged his son, Erin Lankford gave out an almost involuntary, 'Hoo-hoo!' at the thought of her husband being home after four months.

"Andrew asked me yesterday, 'Would you be mad if I played with Dad?' " she said. Erin Lankford stopped and laughed at the thought. "I said, 'Nooooo!'"

By Terry Boyd  
Stars and Stripes

## Annual retiree health fair

Most attendees had attended previous Wuerzburg Hospital Retiree Health Fairs.

Old soldiers like Milton Braxton, who claims to have more than 1,000 days in combat in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, are regulars at this annual event that focuses on the healthcare needs of the regional retiree community.

"I think it's a super program you have here," said Michael Hretzek, a resident of nearby Kurnach who retired from active duty 30 years ago. "It keeps us up-to-date and in-

formed. This event is always well-organized and I think all of us retirees are happy with it."

Retiree Bill Struve said, "This is the first time since I retired 11 years go that I've been examined by an Army dentist. I think it's wonderful that providers and support staff from the hospital make this available. It is certainly a proactive service to the retiree community."

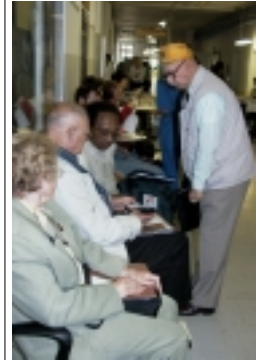
American Red Cross volunteers manned many of the tables and conducted blood

pressure and temperature checks. Doctors and nurses from throughout the medical and dental commands were available for consultation and assistance.

Project officer Maj. Cheryl Pollard said, "Many retirees attend this event every year. We would worry if they didn't."

by Roger Teel  
W-MEDDAC Public Affairs

## W-MEDDAC



30-year retiree Michael Hretzek said, "This event is always well-organized ... all of us retirees are happy with it."

## FIF—Medical team cares for Free Iraqi Forces



U.S. and Hungarian soldiers practice an ambulance to medevac helicopter patient transfer during an FIF mass casualty exercise in Hungary. The medical team included: Spc. Jason Geyer, Sgt. Aaron Burrell, Spc. Christina Taylor, Spc. Julio Elkinwor and Pfc. Melissa Aschenbrenner.

the FIF. This also included a portable, hard-walled operating room with equipment to perform surgery.

The building housing the physical plant required an additional design and construction to bring the facility up to medical standards. Medical professionals to include a trauma surgeon, an orthopedic surgeon, an internal medicine specialist, an anesthetist, a dental officer and a flight surgeon were deployed from units throughout Europe to staff the facility.

### FIF, FROM PAGE 1

The medical and surgical capabilities had to be self contained, because the FIF, primarily composed of Iraqi exiles, could not readily seek medical care in either the Hungarian medical system or any European medical system due to political sensitivities and security issues.

The joint team identified

medical supplies and equipment required to equip this medical facility that was equivalent to a small hospital. Over \$750,000 of medical supplies and more than \$500,000 of medical equipment including: hospital beds, x-ray machines, dental equipment for a complete dental office were rushed to Tazsar to be ready for the arrival of

by Lt. Col. Gordon Hsieh  
Commander, Medical Task Force

"...the FIF, primarily composed of Iraqi exiles, could not readily seek medical care in either the Hungarian medical system or any European medical system..."

## ERDC



Capt. (Dr.) Michael Hansen & Spc. Clinton Lochabay provide dental services for an Iraqi girl as her family supervises.

"Three Forward Dental Treatment Teams deployed from Vilseck, Germany's 561st Medical Company ... to facilitate a rapid set-up ..."



Where's the dental bus?

- 13-25 Jul  
Rotterdam
- 17-30 Aug  
Paris
- 9-11 Sep  
[Land Combat Expo](#)
- 14-28 Sep  
Vienna
- 5-10 Oct  
Garmisch

## Forward Dental Treatment Teams in Baghdad

**Baghdad, Iraq** – Three Forward Dental Treatment Teams (FDTT) deployed from Vilseck, Germany's 561<sup>st</sup> Medical Company (Dental Services) to participate in their second mission to support "[Task Force Neighborhood](#)" in Baghdad.

Three dental teams and two additional auxiliary personnel were deployed from Vilseck. Each FDTT consists of two personnel, a dentist and a dental assistant. The FDTT load plan was modified to facilitate a rapid set-up for a limited care mission.

Thirty-nine patients were seen and 30 patients accepted treatment. This resulted in the extraction of 31 non-restorable teeth. Additionally, dental restorations were performed on six teeth.

"Task Force Neighborhood" is a group effort comprised of military engineers, medical and dental personnel, civil affairs teams and civilian contractors. Together, they repair schools and hospitals, offer medical and dental treatment, restore power and water, remove unexploded ordnance

and remove trash to central collection points.

by Lt. Col. Donn A. Grimes  
CDR 561<sup>st</sup> Medical Company  
(Dental Service)



Capt. (Dr.) Yahya Radwan speaks with an Iraqi patient as news reporters and members of the 94th Engineer Battalion from Vilseck, Germany observe.



Capt. (Dr.) Julie Hollobaugh and Spc. Clinton Lochabay provide restorative dentistry in Baghdad.



## USACHPPMEUR helps assure POW camps are safe

**Camp Doha, Kuwait** – The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – Europe (USACHPPMEUR) participated in identifying, securing, and assessing potential areas to intern enemy prisoners of war soon after ground operations commenced in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Col. Brian Commons, Commander, USACHPPMEUR deployed into Iraq with the 223rd Military Police Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force to provide preventive medicine technical consultation for site

selection. Environmental issues including: proximity to water source; water quality and quantity; terrain suitability; size; proximity to main supply routes; and environmental hazards were some of the factors analyzed. Commons also teamed with a Joint Task Force – 7 advance unit to provide a “snapshot” health assessment of Baghdad shortly after coalition forces entered the city.

In the fall of 2001, a team from USACHPPMEUR deployed to locations in Uzbeki-

stan and Afghanistan to conduct similar environmental site assessments at troop locations. The team was called back to do a more comprehensive mission, assessing four sites in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan in June and July of 2002. The team conducted health risk communication at each troop location. Public education tools were also generated to assist troop commanders getting the word out on hazards in the environment.

By Annette K. Hildabrand  
USACHPPMEUR



The world-class center of excellence for the systematic prevention of environmental, occupational, and disease threats to the health and performance of individuals and populations.

## USAMMCE on the front lines with OEF/OIF

**Primasens, Germany** – A hospital without medical materiel support is like an M-16A2 Rifle without bullets. Even the world's greatest marksman cannot do his job effectively without ammunition, and a hospital is only as good as its supplier.

The United States Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe (USAMMCE), is the primary supplier of medical materiel for all military operations in Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, and many non-military operations such as embassies.

Col. Jettaka Signaigo, USAMMCE Commander, said that every medical supply item in the European theater from eyeglasses to combat hospital equipment has at one time passed through their hands.

According to Brig. Gen. Elder Granger, Commander, Europe Regional Medical Command, “USAMMCE is an invaluable asset to our mission. Without this great organization, we could not do our day-to-day mission.”

During the recent war in Iraq, USAMMCE's role in military healthcare became more vital.

“Our inventory is only limited by one's imagination,” said Signaigo. USAMMCE regularly stocks more than 7,000 line items, and more than 40,000 additional lines are cataloged and can be ordered by customers.

As of June 19th, for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, military medical facilities have ordered over \$107.6 million in medical supplies and equipment.

Sometimes the delivery of a particular item is a matter of life and death. She recalls one instance during Operation Iraqi Freedom when 16 patients on a U.S. Navy hospital ship within the CENTCOM Area of Operations were in desperate need of a special antibiotic due to an infectious outbreak.

According to Signaigo, when her Navy liaison received the request, the USAMMCE team went to work fast. The antibi-

otic was in the hands of the healthcare provider within 26 hours. It reached the patients in time to save their lives.

Signaigo said, “It takes the help of a lot of people outside this command to ensure our success. Without the assistance of the 418th Medical Logistics Company, deployed to USAMMCE since early December from Fort Sam Houston, soldiers from the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion in Miesau, Germany, and three Air Force Expeditionary Medical Logistics Teams, USAMMCE would not have had the manpower needed to accomplish the increased workload.”

USAMMCE also needed more than the regular daily duty hours from the local national and US civilian employees.

“We don't want the customer to know how complicated the process is. All we want them to know is that within days of placing an order, the products get delivered,” Signaigo said.

ERMC Public Affairs

“Col. Commons also teamed with a Joint Task Force-7 advance unit to provide a “snapshot” health assessment of Baghdad shortly after coalition forces entered the city.”



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## VETERINARY SERVICE



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Anywhere!*

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## Vets support OEF in Latvia

**Riga, Latvia** – The 21<sup>st</sup> century may be high tech, but when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, today's Army is not much different from ancient warriors – an army still moves on its stomach. Helping to keep human fuel supplies ready for Freedom's Expeditionary Force is one of the jobs of Veterinary Services Europe.

In September 2002, U.S. Army Europe had 58 tractor-trailer loads of Unitized Group Rations (UGR-A's) pre-positioned in Latvia – enough provisions to serve about 185,000 meals! The [Unitized Group Ration](#) is the result of Gulf War experience. Prior to

UGR's, a cook had to order up to 35 different items to put a meal together. Often, some items were out of stock and the cook was at the mercy of the logistics system. A UGR contains all of the components that a cook needs to provide a high quality group meal for 50 soldiers.

The mission to the Baltic nation fell to Chief Warrant Officer Richard Stith from the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment, Griesheim, Germany. Stith made his way to Riga to inspect the refrigerated, 40-foot containers and assure that the items were being controlled at the

proper temperature to ensure the recommended shelf life would be maintained. Stith also conducted a pre-audit inspection of a cold storage facility to replace the 40-foot containers in which the rations were stored.

Like most veterinary missions this one was un-eventful, but 185,000 satisfied soldiers might see it altogether different.

by Lt. Col. Susan R. Yanoff  
100<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment

## Vets play key role in pre-war NEO in Turkey

**Incirlik, Turkey** – Nearly 1,300 family members and non-mission essential civilian employees packed up, processed and departed Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, March 20 through 22, as U.S. and coalition forces began Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many families who chose to return to the U.S. decided to take their pets with them.

Lt. Col. Mary Elkins, a Veterinary Corps officer and officer in charge of

the Incirlik Branch of the Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment, and Spc. Kenneth Cole, an animal care specialist and NCOIC of the branch, processed 46 pets for travel.

The two-person team worked over five days, often into the night, in the joint Army and Air Force environment. They worked in close coordination with representatives from the Air Force Air Mobility Command

and Evacuation Operations Center in order to meet the stringent timeline for evacuation and to ensure all pets were able to travel with their families. The process was accomplished virtually discrepancy-free.

by Lt. Col. Susan R. Yanoff  
100<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment

The U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command was activated on Oct. 16, 1994, under the command and control of the U.S. Army Medical Command, headquartered at Fort Sam, Houston, Texas. The command was originally designated the European Health Service Support Area, one of seven Army health service support regions throughout the world. To clarify beneficiary recognition of their mission, all health service support areas were re-designated regional medical commands in July 1996.

To meet the European challenge of the ever changing medical environment and the military force, Europe Regional Medical Command oversees and maintains the successful operation of the Army's 30 healthcare facilities in Germany, Italy and Belgium.